GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:133
ANSWERED ON:18.02.2003
CLOSURE OF MINES BY CIL
BASUDEB ACHARIA

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to close down 30 mines of Coal India Limited;

(b) if so, the details thereof; (

(c) whether the Union Government have examined the viability proposal of these mines or tried to revive those units before taking the closure decision; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA)

(a) to (d) : Closing mining activities in coal mines and opening of new coal mines is an ongoing process.Depending on parameters like exhaustion of coal reserves, economic viability of the coal mines, safety consideration , technical feasibility, ability of the coal company to redeploy the workers in a more viable mine etc., operational decisions are taken by the coal companies to close mining activities in some mines and also to open some new mines. 53 coal mines have been identified by the subsidiary coal companies of Coal India Limitedfor suspension of operation in a phased manner. The location of these mines , company wise and State wise, and reasons for suspension are as under :-

Company	West Bengal proposed	Jharkhand	Reasons for the suspension of operation
Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	23	3	Economically unviable
Bharat Coking Coal Ltd.	-	15	Economically unviable
Central Coalfields Ltd.	-	12	Economically unviable
Total	23	30	

However Government have stated on several occasions that workmen will not be retrenched on account of closure ofmines or suspension of mining operations but will be suitably redeployed.